(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to complete on-going power projects within stipulated period?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) During the period April, 2005—January, 2006, the energy and peak shortage in Punjab was 8.6% and 20.3% respectively.

(b) The scheme for setting up of 2x250 MW Thermal Power Project is under construction at Lehra Mohabbat, Distt. Bhatinda in Punjab. The commissioning schedule of above two units is October, 2006 and January, 2007 respectively. Further, no hydro power project is under construction in the State. Construction of all the ongoing power projects including the aforesaid project is being vigorously monitored by Ministry of Power and Central Electricity Authority.

Power consumers in Delhi

1092. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on an average, 30 lakh billed power consumers in Delhi had paid about Rs. 5000/- this year for power that others have stolen;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the billed consumers had to pay for guaranteeing a 16 per cent return on any investments private distributors make; and

(c) if so, who is responsible for putting the interests of innocent consumer at the whims and wishes of private power distribution companies and what safeguards would be initiated to check it?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) The electricity sector in Delhi is a regulated business and it is governed by an independent regulator, Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC). The consumer is required to pay the charges for the consumption of electricity based upon the tariff approved by the DERC from time to time. While fixing tariff the level of Aggregate Technical & Commercial losses is also taken into consideration. In some of the pockets AT&C loss level is still more than 50%.

(b) As per the policy directions of Government of NCT of Delhi, 16% return on the issued and paid up capital and free reserves (excluding consumer contribution and revaluation reserves but including share premium and retained profits outstanding at the end of any particular

year) is admissible to the licensee provided that such share capital and free reserves have been invested into fixed or any other assets, which have been put into beneficial use for the purpose of electricity distribution and retail supply and provided further that such investment of such share capital and free reserves has the approval of the Commission. These policy directions are applicable only for first five years of privatization beginning 1st July, 2002. 16% return is available only when the licensee has achieved the committed levels of AT&C loss reduction. Further the distribution licensee's returns are adversely affected if it fails to achieve the set targets.

(c) For safeguarding the interests of consumers, the DERC, *inter alia,* monitors the following:—

- Loss reduction.
- Properly incurred expenses in approving tariff
- Performance standards.
- Consumer grievance redressal.

Power capacity addition

1093. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's efforts have been dismal during 2005-06 fiscal in regard to creation of capacity addition with only 809 MW achieved against the targeted total capacity addition of 3450 MW;

(b) whether despite this dismal performance during 2005-06 Government have set a more ambitious target of power capacity addition for 2006-07 at around 13,000 MW; and

(c) whether against the States' share of power capacity addition set at 865 MW during the year 2005-06, no addition has fructified?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) Against a capacity addition target of 6984.52 MW for 2005-06, a capacity of 3015 MW has already been commissioned till now. The capacity addition target for the State Sector has been set at 2081.92 MW against which a capacity of 985 MW has already been commissioned so far. A capacity of 2066 MW is likely to be added in balance period 2005-06. A target of 18184 MW has been set tentatively for 2006-07. A higher target has been set for 2006-07 in view of the fact that most of the